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Oxford Police bring new Safe Site to the Square

LASHERICA THORNTON
STAFF WRITER

Oxford Police Department launched a new program on the Square with the goal of promoting safety, providing protection and decreasing crime for its downtown patrons.

The Safe Site tent will be in front of Visit Oxford on the Square, Wednesday through Saturday each week from 8 p.m. until 45 minutes after bars close.

“Anywhere from four thousand to seven thousand people are in that area on a really hopping weekend,” said OPD Maj. Jeff McCutchen.

Uniformed officers will assist anyone who feels unsafe, needs help to find transportation, wants an escort to his or her vehicle or requires any other police assistance.

“Every supervisor has their own style. If I’m out, I may handle public drunks a certain way,” McCutchen said. “I may have a very small tolerance with my staff and say, ‘If they’re causing problems, go get him, take to him jail.’ But, the next guy may come in and say, ‘If they’re not fighting and if we can give him a ride, we give him a ride. We want a consistent answer down there.”

Employing four different patrol shifts, OPD hopes to eventually streamline downtown activity with consistent responses.

“How can we ask people to behave a certain way if our standards change every night? This team was designed so that we can have a set kind of standards and expectations. That was a thing we wanted



PHOTO BY: ANNA HAYWARD



FILE PHOTO

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Oxford Police Department officers sit in the safe zone area in front of the Visitors Center on the Square Wednesday night.

Bike MS hosts first-ever awareness ride to Oxford

JORDYN SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of cyclists will race to the finish line for the first-ever FedEx Rockin’ Ride to Oxford benefiting The National Multiple Sclerosis Society this Saturday in the Grove.

Bike MS is a cycling fundraiser that combines competition with charity to find a cure to end multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease where the body’s immune system attacks the central nervous system. It is an unpredictable, chronically debilitating disease that is currently incurable. More than 2.3 million people are affected by MS worldwide, according to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

That is why researchers and fundraisers like Bike MS are working harder than

ever to find a cure.

The Memphis area has hosted Bike MS events for over 30 years, but this is the first time the group will make the trip down to Oxford.

“I cannot wait to see our cyclists come across the finish line at The Grove,” Abby Harwood, director of Bike MS, said. “The City of Oxford and the university have been so welcoming and hos-

pitable. I know our cyclists are going to have a wonderful experience.”

The riders will start at Byhalia High School, following either a 55 or 100-mile route to the Grove, which will serve as the finish line for cyclists. Early finishers will then be able to participate in their own Grove tailgate as they cheer on other cyclists.

The ride is accommo-

dating to bikers of all skill levels with different route options. Riders will wind through the countryside of Mississippi with a fully equipped team providing rest stops every 10 to 12 miles.

There will also be medical and mechanical help should any rider need assistance. Harwood said they have ev-

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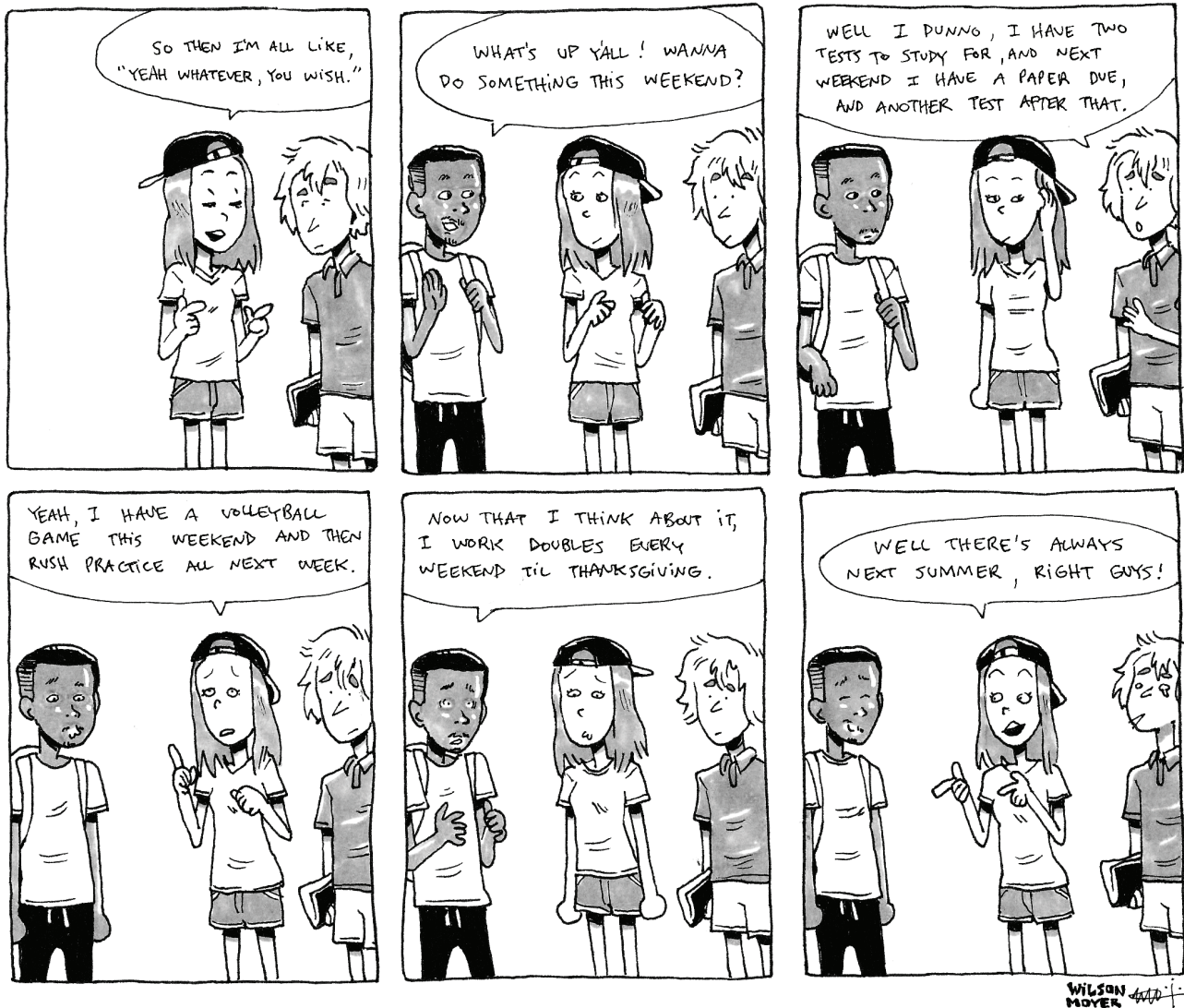
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COLUMN

Title IX revisions a necessary change



MATTHEW DEAN
STAFF COLUMNIST

I will be the first to say that Betsy DeVos was a pitiful choice as Secretary of Education. I am a proud product of the classic underfunded, small 1-A school, and I detest her educational elitism.

However, her recent decision to reform Title IX is one decision that I can actually get behind. The purpose of this article is not to question the validity of the majority of reported sexual assaults, but rather to question the methods used by universities to handle these cases.

On paper, Title IX is all about prohibiting discrimi-

nation in education or federally funded “activities” on the basis of sex. In 2011, it fell onto the shoulders of colleges to enforce consequences for sexual violence on campuses. That sounds fine, but unfortunately, common sense wasn’t always applied to these practices.

Under the Obama Administration, universities handled sexual assault cases as investigator, judge and jury.

The 2011 change mandated that colleges must use the standard of “preponderance of evidence,” rather than “beyond a reasonable doubt,” when adjudicating sexual assault cases. This way of deciding guilt or innocence is the standard in civil cases and guilt is proven simply by showing a 50.01-percent certainty of guilt, even if there is a 49.99-percent chance the person is innocent.

Supporters of this process argued that universities were inept to handle cases at a criminal law standard, despite the fact that sexual assault is a serious violent crime, which puts the reputation and finan-

cial future of the accused on the line.

The specifics of what DeVos hopes to change have not been explicitly stated at the time of this writing, but from DeVos’ speech, it is clear that the intent is to prevent the overreach of universities in the handling of sexual assault cases.

Most of the arguments I have seen against the decision to revise Title IX policies are the typical “white male privilege” drivel that the political left has become fond of spitting out.

Despite this popular line of reasoning, evidence suggests that African American males are accused by white females at a disproportionate rate. Historically, black men have been easy targets for false sexual assault accusations, and anecdotal and statistical evidence from universities such as Harvard, Colgate and William Paterson shows that the trend might be leaking into campus cases.

White liberals often like to pat themselves on the back as heroes to racial minorities, but an unquestioning support of

Obama-era Title IX practices that unfairly treated black men on college campuses without due process reveal this as a hypocrisy of convenience.

In fact, the Office for Civil Rights does not require colleges to record information on race in sexual assault cases. Perhaps there’s something they would rather not be seen. How many accusations were cases of racial scapegoating, and how many black men were unfairly punished for an assault they did not commit?

We will likely never know. Ignorance is liberal bliss, I guess.

Campus sexual assault cases should be handled with the utmost respect and fairness to the parties involved and with an absolute regard for the law.

Let’s hope that the revisions made under the Trump Administration make an effort to secure the ideals that Title IX represent, and the security of all becomes greater for it.

Matthew Dean is a senior criminal justice major from Possumneck.

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or “name withheld” will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.



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MEMBER NEWSPAPER

SAFE ZONE
continued from page 1

to clean up on our end,” McCutchen said.

The site officers intend to allow individuals to have fun as long as they are not drawing attention to themselves by causing problems.

“Don’t cause problems, don’t steal from the bar and don’t fight. You’re going to get home,” McCutchen said. “The majority of the people go in and have a good time and get home on their own.”

The department plans on developing ways to make the Safe Site more noticeable and welcoming. They are currently working with a design company to customize an event tent and are considering colored lights to catch a passerby’s eye.

“A lot of times with law enforcement, it looks very serious,” McCutchen said. “We want it to be more inviting, so we want to get more lighting over there. We’re working on a tent and some other designs that will be more engaging for someone to come up and feel safe who are either underage or have been drinking.”

Safe Site developed from OPD’s “Meet Me” locations during Double Decker. When children are lost, parents can wait at the Meet Me spot while officers search for the lost child.

McCutchen said the Safe Site tent is a place where a person can come if separated from his or her group of friends. Square employees, too, approached OPD about fear of walking to their vehicles alone, so it will become a remedy for that as well.

According to McCutchen,

OPD hopes to see a reduction in crimes like assault, robbery, auto burglary and public drunkenness.

“Another reason this is important is perception. A lot of people think we are up there to arrest people,” McCutchen said. “I assure you, we’re not. We are there for protection.”

McCutchen said he hopes this first semester will bring a lot of traffic to the site.

Nevertheless, the department’s goal is to grow the site and improve engagement with the community.

“Our goal is that they begin to give us more information,” he said. “The more feedback we can get, the better we can police and meet needs.”

OPD officer Cody Pruitt said several parents asked about the new Safe Site and how their kids could get rides home.

“We explained we’re not giving rides home. We can help flag down a taxi or they can

wait for an Uber here,” Pruitt said.

Carl Baker is the sergeant of the downtown district of Oxford and said the centralized location is a place where everyone knows police will be.

“Anytime that you have alcohol involved in a situation or you have a lot of people in one place, that gives you the potential for things to happen,” Baker said. “So, we want to give that avenue for people if anything does happen or even if they feel unsafe, it’ll give them somewhere to go.”

During the first two week-ends of its use, Safe Site appears to be a success as numerous people have used the location to flag a ride down.

“If we’re helping one, two, three people a night- at the end of the year, that’s a lot of people over a semester time where they didn’t get arrested, where they didn’t get hurt,” McCutchen said. That’s a win for us.”

BIKE RACE
continued from page 1

everything taken care of for the riders to succeed and are dedicated to the main goal of having fun while ending MS.

Bike MS works to make dramatic impacts, and raises more money than any other cycling event for any other cause. According to the organization, they have raised over \$1 billion to find a cure to end multiple sclerosis. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society reports they are the largest private funder of Multiple sclerosis research in the world, and Bike MS is one of its biggest fundraisers.

The FedEx Rockin’ Ride to Oxford has equally big goals in mind for their introductory year. Harwood said the ride has currently raised almost \$140,000.

This year’s ride impacts not only riders, volunteers and donors but also the millions of lives affected by multiple sclerosis.

“This position is so much more than a job,” Harwood said. “Growing up my Aunt Libby lived with MS, and I saw firsthand how MS affects individuals and families. Every day I go to work and do my very best to honor her memory. My goal, and the society’s goal, is to end MS forever.”

Even if students are not able to participate in the ride, they are encouraged and welcomed to get involved.

“We are always looking for volunteers,” Harwood said. “We would love to have students come to our finish line and show the spirit of Ole Miss as our riders finish day one.”

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Yoga in the Gallery combines art, relaxation

JACQUELINE SCHLICK
STAFF WRITER

Each Monday the University Museum hosts Yoga in the Gallery, an early-morning event open to the community and offering participants a chance to unwind and relax while taking in the artwork and galleries featured at the museum.

The sessions are led by an official instructor at 8:30 a.m. in the Lower Skipwith Gallery, the long and narrow section at the back of the building where different artists display their works for a limited time. The yoga sessions are free and for drop-ins, no appointment or registration required.

“It’s bring-your-own-mat which is pretty fun,” Debbie Nelson, University Museum membership, events and communications coordinator, said. “People don’t have to worry about signing up and can just stop in.”

The Lower Skipwith Gallery is temporarily under renovation but yoga classes will carry on in the speaker’s gallery, a small room located to the left of the entrance.

“People enjoy the Lower Gallery because it provides an open and serene feeling,

so we hope to move it back soon,” Nelson said.

Yoga in the Gallery is programmed by RebelWell, Ole Miss’ center for health promotion. RebelWell has made creative use for reserved places on campus since space is so limited with construction and growing university attendance.

“The university’s RebelWell team was looking for opportunities to offer programs for community members, faculty and staff so we partnered with the museum,” Andrea Jekabsons, associate director of human resources, said. “It’s a beautiful space and space is a premium on campus. We thought it was a perfect place to offer yoga specifically because it provides access for the community and is in such a gorgeous location.”

Yoga in the Gallery is just one of the ways RebelWell provides students, faculty and staff with recreational opportunities. It also established a walking path around the Grove and formalized bikers’ use of Whirlpool Trails, changing its name to the South Campus Rail Trail.

“We put in programming and signage to claim the Whirlpool Trail area be-



PHOTO BY: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Participants perform yoga exercises during a class held in the UM Museum’s gallery on Monday morning.

cause it wasn’t an established space at that time,” Jekabsons said. “We also worked with the University Museum to promote the Bailey’s Woods behind the building.”

The Bailey’s Woods Trail connects William Faulkner’s Rowan Oak to the University Museum and is

a path that takes about 20 minutes to complete. It is now used by RebelWell for “mindful walks.” The guided trail aims to encourage the community to breathe, travel slowly and escape the demands of the day for a short while to appreciate and live in the moment. Faulkner himself was no

stranger to the trail and was found many times doing exactly what RebelWell seeks for its participants.

Creative locations throughout town and campus are being used to ensure variety and maximization of the space Ole Miss has while allowing the university to branch outside of the recreation center or regular classrooms.

“When we started RebelWell, the concern was for the Turner Center because it was so heavily impacted,” Jekabsons said. “We tried to think creatively for other areas and looked into facilities on campus.”

Yoga and historic artifacts might not seem like they would immediately coincide, but the mindfulness and concentration yoga requires is supported well by the quiet and calm of the University Museum.

“It’s a relaxing thing to come to a place like this to start your Monday morning,” Nelson said.

The yoga sessions last one hour and are open to the public. The sessions carry on throughout the fall season, with the exception of Nov. 20. The University Museum is located at the intersection of South 5th and University Avenue.

Pick up a mat and enjoy this free event every week. You may even learn a thing or two about ancient Greek history.

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Film screening addresses Southern women's trials

JAX DALLAS
STAFF WRITER

The Oxford Film Festival will round off its six-month-long free movie series at 6 p.m. Saturday with a showing of "Crimes of the Heart" at Locals Bar & Restaurant.

The project is a partnered effort between the Oxford Film Festival and the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies to celebrate the history of Mississippi.

"Since many of the events were very male-centric I thought proposing a film series that looked at women on film based in Mississippi would be a unique way to look back at our history," said Melanie Addington, executive director of the Oxford Film Festival.

"Crimes of the Heart" was released in 1986 as a film adaptation of a 1979 stage play of the same name and has received much praise since its release. Picking up three Academy Award nominations at the time of release, the film is widely beloved for its ability to toe the line between comedy and reverence to the trials and tribulations that many Southern women have to overcome in their daily lives.

"'Crimes of the Heart' is that most delicate of undertakings: a comedy about serious matters," film critic Roger Erbert said. "It exists somewhere between parody

and melodrama, the tragic and the goofy. There are moments where the movie does not seem to know where it's going but for once that's a good thing because the uncertainty almost always ends some kind of delightful, weird surprise."

The evening will be capped off by a conversation lead by Sheffield Spence, president of the Ole Miss branch of the Feminist Majority Foundation, giving the audience an opportunity to discuss their impressions of the film with members of their community.

"This panel will be a great way to have a discussion about Mississippi-based women represented in film and how this applies to not only the state as a whole, but how media portrays women of the South," Spence said. "I'm excited to see what elements of the film the audience will bring up to discuss."

Attendees of the panel can expect to learn about the Feminist Majority Foundation's role in Oxford and how it and the Oxford Film Festival have come together to spread awareness for causes ranging from domestic abuse to sexual health.

"The Oxford Film Festival does a great job of encouraging inclusivity in the City of Oxford," Spence said. "With more screenings of films that are about women and of difficult issues

such as HIV/AIDS in the documentary DeepSouth, they are creating a space in the city of Oxford that allows for people to speak up about these crucial issues in our society."

Saturday's showing will be a free entry event, but the Oxford Film Festival crew will be accepting donations to help them continue to host events like this and gear up for their namesake festival in February.

Both the Festival and Isom Center will host several screenings throughout the rest of the semester, including a screening of DeepSouth for World Aids Day and a Halloween/Rocky Horror Picture Show double feature.



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COLUMN

Offensive line woes in NFL trace roots to NCAA

JOSH GOLLIHAR
STAFF WRITERS

With two weeks of NFL action in the books, a mix of great, good, mediocre and bad quarterbacks has dominated the headlines. With guys like Jacoby Brissett, Brian Hoyer, Mike Glennon and Case Keenum starting games this past week, it's clear there is a shortage of quality quarterbacks in the NFL. But perhaps more than any other position this year, quality offensive linemen are what the NFL seems to lack.

Teams attesting to this shortage include the Seattle Seahawks, New York Giants and Houston Texans. Built to contend for Super Bowls, all three teams have rosters with top-tier defenses and talent on offense. However, the lack of skilled offensive lines continues to hold back

these teams. And these aren't the only teams struggling with this issue, either. The league is constantly in search of big bodies to protect its gun-slinging pocket passers.

The problem, it appears, stems from college football.

High-octane spread offenses have produced loads of entertainment for college fans from coast to coast; this style is notorious for high-scoring games and tremendous stats. The one thing it does not do is prepare offensive linemen for the NFL.

NFL offensive linemen need a unique combination of athleticism and skill. On every play, they must block defensive linemen, who are 280-pound freak athletes, for five seconds at a time. Offensive line positions are not easy to fill, and college programs are not doing those players any favors.

College offensive linemen (aside from those at Georgia Tech, Alabama, Stanford, etc.) rarely have to block for more than two or three seconds because quarterbacks often do not hold onto the ball. The read-option offense under-prepares offensive linemen by limiting their duties. Read-option linemen rarely have to push defensive linemen back to open passing lanes. A quick passing game also does not expose offensive tackles to the variety of pass rush moves defensive players employ at the professional level.

Without seeing the talent on game film, NFL scouts and general managers are forced to project which players can make a difference at the professional level. A total of 21 offensive linemen have been selected in the first round of the NFL draft since 2014. The

problem lies in quality, not quantity.

The Minnesota Vikings brought in five new starters this year after scrapping their entire offensive line from the 2016 season. Seattle has continuously tried to convert defensive linemen and former basketball players into serviceable offensive players. Perhaps to validate his top-10 draft selection, the New York Giants continue to play Ereck Flowers at left tackle, despite his continuing struggles.

The league consensus seems to favor underpaying offensive linemen and greater resource allocation to other positions. Outside of the Oakland Raiders and Dallas Cowboys, teams refuse to dish out cash for talented line players. This has led to players like Donald Penn and Duane Brown entering contract holdouts following salary ne-

gotiation disputes. The Raiders recognized Penn's importance and paid him, capturing a talented game-changer. The Houston Texans have not paid Brown and are now facing the repercussions of that decision. Maybe conceding 10 sacks in a single game will open their pocket books.

The average football fan does not pay attention to the offensive line while watching a game. Understandable. An offensive lineman cannot complete a last-minute, game-winning touchdown pass. But a quarterback will not make that throw without a line to protect him.

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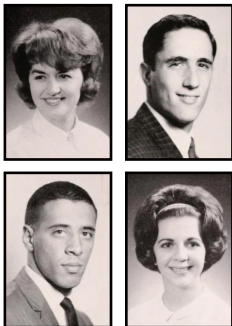
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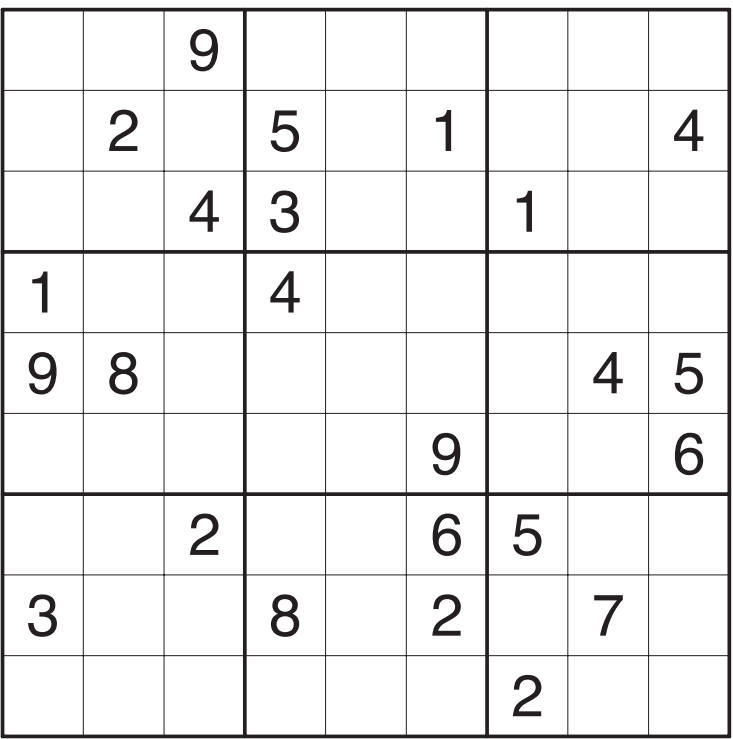
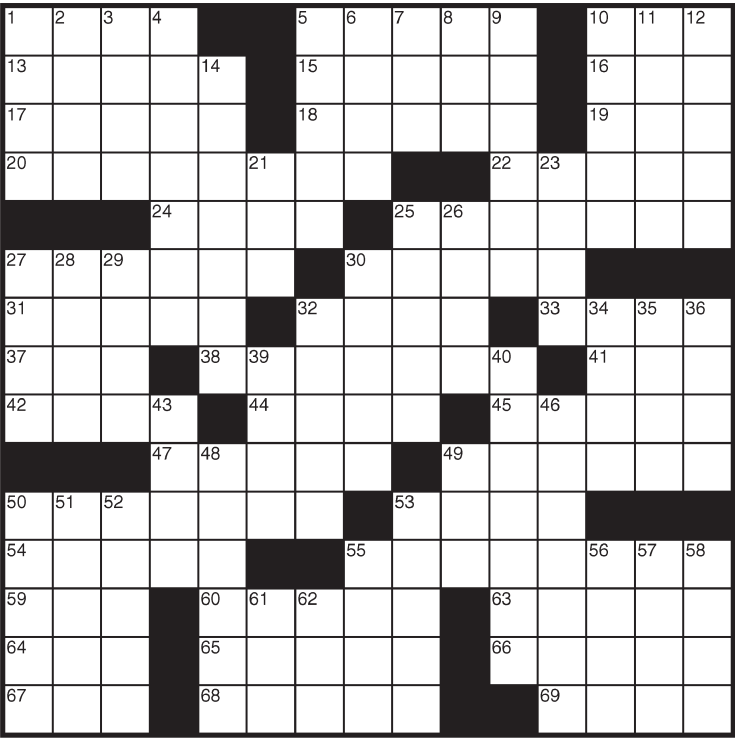
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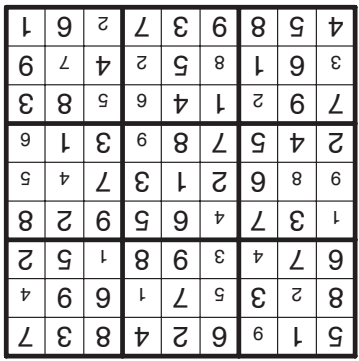


HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL PICK 'EM: WEEK FOUR

The college football season is entering week four and there's no shortage of drama. Adding to it, widespread conference play opens up this week. Each team is looking to build its resume for the college football playoff committee. Which teams can validate early season success? Who can turn early season woes into a second half resurgence?

JOSH GOLLIHAR
ALEX LEARNED
STAFF WRITERS

NO. 4 PENN STATE VERSUS IOWA



Alex: The Hawkeyes are amped for this one, looking to avenge their 41-14 loss to Penn last season. Penn State Heisman Trophy candidates, quarterback Trace McSorley and running back Saquon Barkley, won't make it easy. The fourth ranked Nittany Lions have much to prove this season after a crushing Rose Bowl defeat last year. Iowa will give a valiant effort at home in Iowa City, but there's simply too much star power on the opposing sideline for them to overcome. Penn State gets the win.

Josh: Kinnick Stadium is no friend to highly ranked opponents. Michigan's playoff dreams were shattered a year ago when Iowa pulled off a remarkable upset. Kirk Ferentz is the longest tenured head coach in college football and for good reason. His defense is tough. His offense is a force running the ball. His quarterbacks do not turn the ball over. Josey Jewell is one of the best linebackers in the country, Akrum Wadley is a bruising tailback, and night games in Iowa City produce drama. But James Franklin is not about to get upset. Saquon Barkley and Mike Gesicki are the best in the country at their positions. Quarterback Trace McSorley is a dynamic, dual-threat weapon. The Nittany Lions take down the Hawkeyes.

NO. 16 TCU VERSUS NO. 6 OKLAHOMA STATE



Alex: TCU hopes to return to the national spotlight with a win over the high-powered Oklahoma State offense and it's safe to say they face an uphill battle. Since the departure of Trevone Boykin two seasons ago, the Horned Frogs have been fairly irrelevant. The Cowboys, on the other hand, are looking to break through their ceiling and cement themselves as one of the country's top teams and a contender for the College Football Playoff. Mason Rudolph's Heisman campaign should continue after blowing out Pitt last week. Oklahoma State wins in a high-scoring contest.

Josh: TCU has finally gotten back to Gary Patterson's brand of football. The team has one of the tougher defenses in the Big 12, necessary to slow down Mike Gundy's potent offense. Quarterback Kenny Hill will need to make plays both in the air and on the ground to keep pace in this expected shootout. Cowboy quarterback Mason Rudolph is proving to be one of the top signal callers in the country, poised for a run at the Heisman. Along with an elite wide receiver core and a talented running back, Oklahoma State wins big.

NO. 17 MISSISSIPPI STATE VERSUS NO. 11 GEORGIA



Alex: The battle of the Bulldogs. Mississippi State made headlines after dominating LSU in "Starkvegas" last week. Nick Fitzgerald's play has been outstanding and his defense hasn't been too far behind. On the other side, Jacob Eason will return to action for Georgia and look to establish SEC East dominance. The Georgia defense will need to play well, as they have been, if they hope to keep State quiet. Otherwise, Eason and company will have to keep up with Fitzgerald and an offense that made LSU look silly. Dan Mullen and his physically tenacious team find a way to grind another one out and escape with a win.

Josh: Both teams have statement wins on their resume. Georgia went to South Bend and beat Notre Dame. Mississippi State throttled LSU at home in an upset. Georgia will most likely start freshman quarterback Jake Fromm, as they rely on Nick Chubb, Sony Michel, and Kirby Smart's defense to keep the game close. Mississippi State is loaded on both sides of the ball. Nick Fitzgerald has continued his stellar play from a year ago. Combined with one of the best scoring defenses in the country, State wins this battle of the Bulldogs.

Record:
Alex 8-4
Josh 7-5

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Rebels trounce Bulldogs en route to first SEC win

BILLY SCHUERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Following a 1-0 loss to the No. 7 ranked Florida Gators, the No. 20 Rebel soccer team bounced back to defeat a stout Georgia Bulldog squad. The victory marks Ole Miss' first SEC win of the season.

"I think giving them two days off and giving them time to recoup and relax was huge," head coach Matt Mott said. "In soccer, you need 60 hours to recover from a 90 minute game."

Two days of rest allowed the players plenty of time to recover before returning to practice on Monday.

"It has been really high intensity," junior forward Cece Kizer said. "When we all came back and regrouped we really put in the work that we needed to because we know that midway through the season a lot of teams can start slacking off and get tired legs."

The Rebels have exercised plenty of caution as they fight to prevent general fatigue that accompanies SEC play.

"We came back [from Florida] and had hands down one of the best practices we have had," goal keeper Mar-

nie Merritt said. "Everybody came out with a fire and there was no real drop off at all which is really exciting."

Once again it was solid play from the back line that turned a standard win into a four goal rout. Merritt made three saves en route to locking down Georgia's, at times, potent offense.

"Marnie's commitment to being the best she can be is fantastic, as good as any player there is," Mott said. "She has made big strides from last year to this year, just worked her tail off in the spring and over the summer."

But it was freshman Channing Foster who continues to steal the show this year. The freshman has now scored 10 goals on the year, including one Thursday night. She now leads the team in goals scored.

"Between the two of us we really like to communicate what we are thinking in certain situations," Kizer said. "Teams definitely have to double man Channing and I and that leaves a lot of other players open and allows us to find gaps and scoring opportunities."

Foster scored almost immediately after the game



PHOTO BY: WILSON BENTON

Channing Foster moves the ball past defenders during the game against Georgia on Thursday. Ole Miss won 4-1.

started off a cross from the far corner of the box. Her goal sent a message to the Bulldogs; the Rebels were there to win.

"It just lets your team relax a little bit," Mott said. "But you still want to score again and build that lead, and that is really the mentality of this team, that we really just want to keep going at you."

After Foster scored in the first five minutes of the

game, midfielder Julia Phillips came in and responded five minutes later with a goal of her own; a cross from Mary Kate Smith allowed a high shot into the top corner from seven yards out. Then, in the 56th minute, defender Grace Johnson sent a left-footed rocket into the bottom left of the goal off a corner.

"[Foster and Kizer] have been big this year," Mott

said. "But we spread it around, another one for Julia tonight and then Johnson had another good goal. We have been spending a lot of time on corners so to be able to get one off of one is a great feeling."

Ole Miss travels to Fayetteville, Arkansas, on Sunday for the next conference matchup against the Razorbacks. Kick-off is set for 4 p.m.



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